

January 18th, 2022

Subject: Opposition to Vaccination Requirements to Enter Bars, Restaurants, Recreation Centers, and Other Covered Establishments

Dear Montgomery County Council Members:

I am writing to object the proposal to enforce “vaccine passports” in Montgomery County. As elected council members who represent the citizens of the County, I implore you to reject this legislation.

Collective and emerging scientific evidence has illustrated that:

1. The Omicron variant’s ability to transmit easily but only give mild symptoms (see CDC statements identifying Omicron as a mild variant) to most who are infected will help communities to achieve herd immunity without the need of government intervention, such as vaccine passports.
2. Both vaccinated and unvaccinated persons have the ability to catch and transmit the disease, oftentimes asymptotically.
3. The medical field has gained significant knowledge on how to treat individuals hospitalized with SARS-Cov-2 to prevent fatalities.
4. New anti-viral medications have been produced to treat SARS-Cov-2, providing more options for effective treatment of the disease than just vaccines.

With these things in mind, County Council intervention through the implementation of “vaccine passports” will not only be unnecessary and ineffective, but also detrimental to the County as a whole. The negative community effects of passing “proof of vaccination” legislation could include but not be limited to:

1. County residents going elsewhere and becoming patrons of businesses located outside of the county where they will not be asked to show proof of vaccination. This would result in a loss of revenue for already struggling County businesses.
2. Further burdening struggling County businesses by requiring them to police customer “vaccine passports.”
3. With the SARS-Cov-2 variants that have evolved and are evolving, there is no circumstantial evidence that vaccinations will remain effective without future boosters. This creates an endless cycle of forcing COVID vaccine boosters and showing proof to enter businesses, which is extremely hypocritical in relation to flu and other vaccinations for which proof is not required.
4. Requiring any “vaccine passport” sets a precedence that individuals no longer have the rights to make their own medical decisions regarding their body.

I appreciate you all taking the time to read my concerns and thank you for continuing to serve the people of Montgomery County. I enjoy being a resident of Montgomery County and entrust you all to realize that rejecting the COVID vaccination requirement for entering businesses will be most beneficial in helping all residents in the County recover from the pandemic.

Sincerely,

Matthew Blaise Curley